

MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME TAX.

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1926

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME TAX.

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SOUTHAMPTON'S WOMAN SHERIFF.

Councillor Mrs. Lucia Marion Foster Welch, J.P., who was appointed Sheriff of the County Borough of Southampton on November 9th, is the second woman since mediæval days to hold this ancient office. The first woman to be thus appointed was Councillor Mrs. Lucy Green Wells, who was elected Sheriff of Canterbury two years previously, an office which she served with rare distinction from November 9th, 1924, to November 9th, 1925.

The office of Sheriff dates from Anglo-Saxon days, when the shire-reeve was a Royal official, and the ealderman the national officer. Since the year 1340, Sheriffs of counties, or, more correctly, High Sheriffs, have been annually appointed in November, when the Lord Chancellor, members of the Privy Council, and the Judges of the King's Bench Division meet at the Law Courts and select three names for each county. These are submitted to the King, who pricks a hole in the parchment opposite one name for each county.

The appointment is an annual one, and is compulsory and unpaid. The duties consist of attending upon the Judges, summoning juries, enforcing judgments of the High Courts, acting as returning officer in all Parliamentary elections, and attending the execution of criminals. Most of these duties, however, are carried out by the Under-Sheriff; the High Sheriff, as a rule, only performs the purely ceremonial ones.

The office is not only an ancient, but also a rare one, for there are only 19 towns in England and Wales which, like Southampton and Canterbury, are counties

in themselves, and thus have the right to appoint a Sheriff each year. By a charter of Henry VI., in 1447, Southampton was created "the County of the town of Southampton," and permitted to appoint a Sheriff from among the burgesses on May 1 of that year.

As regards Canterbury, where Mrs. Wells acted as Sheriff, the first appointment is not clearly apparent,

but the Sheriff was the King's officer throughout most of the Saxon Period. An early charter of Henry II. mentions: "My Sheriff of Canterbury," and the second charter of Henry III. mentions that no foreign Sheriffs are to "intermeddle" in the City of Canterbury.

Although women exercised the office of Sheriff in mediæval times, the recent appointments of Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Welch are unique in history, inasmuch as the mediæval women Sheriffs held their office either by right of inheritance or in virtue of a grant from the Crown as a source of profit for their lives, whereas Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Welch have been elected to an office which is now purely honorary.

Amongst the names of mediæval women Sheriffs will be recollected that of Isabella, wife of Richard II., who was Sheriff of Cornwall for three years;

Elizabeth, wife of Edward III., who was Sheriff of Cornwall for five years; and in later days, Ann, Countess of Pembroke, who was Sheriff of Westmorland in the latter part of the 17th century. In most cases these great ladies exercised the office by deputy; in a few others they served jointly with men, who were responsible for the work if there was no deputy.



COUNCILLOR MRS. FOSTER WELCH, J.P.

Mrs. Foster Welch, however, like her predecessor Mrs. Wells at Canterbury, intends to take her duties seriously, in keeping with the modern woman's outlook on public life. She will not be called upon to witness any executions, as the capital sentence is always enforced at Winchester, and not at Southampton, but she will have to summon juries, attend upon and entertain the Recorder at Quarter Sessions, direct the enforcing of judgments of the High Court, and act as Returning Officer in the event of a Parliamentary Election.

Mrs. Foster Welch is the wife of a well-known doctor in Southampton, and has been actively engaged in municipal work for many years. She was the first woman to sit on the Southampton Borough Council, and is the Chairman of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees. She is also a member of the Education, Watch, Finance, and Parliamentary Committees, a Justice of the Peace, and a prison visitor at Winchester.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women Justices of the Peace.

The names of nine women appear in the list of Glasgow's new Justices of the Peace. They are:—Lady Blythswood, Mrs. Beatrice Scott Vawdrey Brander, Mrs. Margaret Scott Hepburn, Mrs. Hourston, O.B.E., Mrs. Cowan Lees, Miss Janet M'Culloch, Mrs. Sarah M'Millan, Miss Dorothy Melvin, of the Domestic Science School, and Mrs. Robertson, of Carnbooth.

The Ryedale Bench of Magistrates welcomed their first woman member last week, when Mrs. Fife took her seat for the first time after her recent appointment to the Commission of the Peace for the North Riding of Yorkshire.

First Woman Barrister in Queensland.

Last October, Miss Kathleen Elizabeth McGregor was admitted by the Queensland Full Court to practice at the Queensland Bar, and Chief Justice Blair, in offering congratulations on behalf of himself and the other Justices on the Bench, wished Miss McGregor every success in her profession. Mrs. L. M. Osborne (formerly Miss Agnes McWhinney), the only woman solicitor in Queensland, was also in Court. The *British Australian and New Zealander* adds: "In other States there are quite a number of women in the legal profession. Miss Isaacs, one of the first women to be admitted to the Bar in Victoria, was appointed by her father, Mr. Justice Isaacs, of the Commonwealth High Court, to be his Associate."

Manchester's Woman Health Official.

The *Yorkshire Post* reports that the Manchester Public Health Committee has appointed Dr. Dorah Smith, of Leeds, to succeed Dr. Marguerite Drummond, who for 14 years has been in charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department of the City. Dr. Smith, who at present holds a similar appointment in Leeds, has previously held appointments at Nottingham and Croydon. Dr. Drummond is taking up an appointment in South Africa.

Woman Candidate for the Madras Council.

Shrimati Kāmaladevi Chatopadhyaya is, according to *New India*, the only woman candidate for the Madras Council. She is standing as an Independent for the constituency of South Kanara, and is supported by Mrs. Cousins, of the Women's Indian Association, as well as by the Ladies' Association in Mangalore.

Chinese Woman Solicitor.

Miss Kathleen Hoahing, the first Chinese woman to pass the British Solicitors' Final Examination, hopes to leave for China next spring, and to practise conveyancing in that country. She was articled to solicitors in London, and, before that, studied at an agricultural college in Kent.

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations was held at Women's Service House, Marsham Street, Westminster, on Monday of this week, with Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc., in the Chair.

At the Business Meeting which preceded the General Meeting, resolutions were passed deploring the fact that the VIIIth Clause of the Covenant establishing equal eligibility for women with men within the League was not being carried into effect; that out of delegations from 48 States, only 6 included women, and then only in the position of substitute delegates or technical advisers; and urging the British representatives to impress upon the Council and the Assembly the importance of carrying this clause into effect.

The inclusion of women among the technical advisers who accompany the British representatives to the Sessions of the Council of the League, so as to enable them to take some share in the deliberations of the Council, and the inclusion of women delegates to next year's Conference on economic problems, was also urged.

Appreciation was expressed of the action of M. Albert Thomas, Chief of the International Labour Organisation, in reminding Governments and the Associations of Employers and Workers that "women are equally eligible with men for nomination as delegates or advisers to Sessions of the International Labour Conference, irrespective of the questions which the Conference is to discuss," though it was noted with regret that, in spite of this reminder, only a few countries sent women, and these merely as technical advisers.

Concern was registered that only one woman had been appointed to the Sub-Committee of the Committee for Intellectual Co-operation, which is to consider the question of inculcating in the minds of the youth of all nations the ideals of the League, and the opinion was expressed that this reluctance to appoint more women to a Committee upon which their services would be of special value denoted a short-sighted policy, which was not in conformity with the terms of the Covenant.

Dame Edith Lyttelton, the principal speaker at the General Meeting, gave an interesting account of the work of the principal women in the Assembly and on the various League Commissions, describing more particularly in the Assembly Mme. Bugge Wicksell (Swedish substitute delegate) and the respect in which she is held because of the excellent judgment she brings to bear on all the subjects under her purview; Mme. Larsen Jahn (Norwegian substitute delegate), with a mind like a hawk pouncing on all irrelevant detail; Miss Bage (Australian substitute delegate), extremely able and with a statesmanlike mind; Dr. Gertrud Bäumer (German technical adviser), of the best German type, with a tremendous reverence for all the activities of the League. Of women on Commissions, Miss Jeppe's magnificent work at Aleppo was specially mentioned, Mrs. Hamilton Wright's activities in connection with the suppression of opium, and the splendid work of Englishwomen and others on the Commission for Child Welfare. Dame Edith was strongly of opinion that the only way to get women more firmly established within the League was (1) to get more women into the Assembly, and (2) to get more women appointed to Government positions in the different countries.

Mrs. Hoster, recently returned from a special mission to Geneva to inquire concerning the unsatisfactory nature of women's appointments within the Secretariat, gave the results of her visit, which clearly proved that much spade work on the part of women's societies will be needed in the future in order to get equality for women in this and other respects.

An instance was cited of a Finnish woman who won a position as a B. member in the Secretariat, but who was, nevertheless, relegated in the long run to the Intermediate Section, a lower category altogether.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Women Franchise.

MR. HAYES (Lab., Edge Hill) asked the Prime Minister whether it is proposed to introduce the Bill granting the franchise to women on the same terms as men before the next General Election? THE PRIME MINISTER: The whole question of the steps to be taken with a view to securing equal political rights for women and men is at present under the consideration of the Government. MR. HAYES: In view of the great necessity for a General Election, does not the right hon. Gentleman think that this matter should be dealt with? VISCONTRESS ASTOR (U., Sutton, Plymouth): Is the Prime Minister aware that the women certainly understood that it was a pledge given by him at the last Election? THE PRIME MINISTER: Perhaps the noble Lady will read my answer when it is in print. CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN (Lib., Leith): Does it mean that the Government will adhere to the pledge during the life of this Parliament? THE PRIME MINISTER: I must refer the hon. and gallant Gentleman to the answers I have just given.

MR. HARNEY (Lib., S. Shields) asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that there is now only one register of electors published annually, the Government is prepared to pass into law before the end of the qualifying period, 1st June, 1927, a simple franchise measure giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men, to ensure that these names will be included in the 1927 register? THE PRIME MINISTER: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer which I gave yesterday to a question by the hon. Member for the Edge Hill Division, of which I am sending him a copy.

SIR ROBERT NEWMAN (U., Exeter) asked the Prime Minister when the Conference of all Parties to consider the question of the equal Parliamentary franchise between men and women will be called? THE PRIME MINISTER: I cannot at present add anything to what I have already said on the subject. CAPT. BENN: Can the Prime Minister say whether the pledge to equalise the franchise is still held by the Government? THE PRIME MINISTER: I have nothing to add to the answer. CAPT. BENN: May we assume, then, that the Government are in some doubt as to whether they will be able to fulfil their pledge? THE PRIME MINISTER: I have nothing to add.

Women Police.

MAJOR HILLS (U., Ripon) asked the Home Secretary when he intends to issue the circular to the police authorities dealing with the appointment of a sufficient number of policewomen to perform appointed duties, which he promised in a reply to a deputation upon 23rd March last? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON HICKS: I have been giving my consideration to all the matters raised by the deputation, and I expect to issue a circular to the police authorities at an early date.

Street Solicitation.

SIR HERBERT CAYZER (U., Portsmouth, S.) asked the Home Secretary if he is now able to say whether the Government has decided to appoint a Committee to inquire into the law dealing with street solicitation for the purposes of prostitution, and, if so, what form the Committee will take? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: It has not as yet been possible to proceed with the consideration of this matter, but I recognise its importance, and it will not be overlooked.

West Ham Infirmary (Nurses' Hours.)

MISS LAWRENCE (Lab., East Ham, N.) asked the Minister of Health whether he will state the hours per week and the length of shift worked by the nurses and sick attendants at the West Ham Central Infirmary at the present time, and the hours and shifts worked prior to the establishment of the present appointed Board of Guardians? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): Prior to the appointment of the present Board, the hours worked

by those officers were 48 a week; they are now 56. Attendants in the observation wards continue to work 48 hours a week. The daily shifts for nurses were 10 hours, and have not been changed. For sick attendants the shifts were eight hours without a break, and are now ten hours, but under the present system the longest time worked without a break is four and a half hours. MISS LAWRENCE: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that this institution is the one where the cancer and venereal cases are present? SIR K. WOOD: That may be so, but there is no evidence that any of these people have suffered. MISS LAWRENCE: Is it within the recollection of the Minister that a deputation from the General Workers Union and the Union of the Municipal Employees waited upon the Minister and urged the importance of short hours for those engaged in nursing such cases? SIR K. WOOD: That may very well be so, but it makes no difference to the answer I have given. DR. VERNON DAVIES (U., Royton): How do the hours worked by the nurses at West Ham Central Infirmary compare with the hours worked by nurses in voluntary general hospitals? SIR K. WOOD: These hours are the same as in a great many other hospitals up and down the country. MR. N. MACLEAN (Lab., Govan): Does that justify it as being a reasonable time for these people to work?

Fishing Industry (Women Workers.)

SIR ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR (Lib., Caithness and Sutherland) asked the Minister of Labour whether any Report has yet been received from Lord Blaneburgh's Committee on Unemployment Insurance with regard to the position of women workers in the fishing industry; and, if so, what action the Government proposes to take? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): The Committee has not yet made a Report.

Magistrates.

MR. BRIANT (Lib., Lambeth, N.) asked the Home Secretary the number of men and women, respectively, acting as magistrates? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: As regards men magistrates, very great labour would be required to ascertain how many of those who have been appointed are still alive and are acting. The Lord Chancellor hopes, therefore, that this part of the question will not be pressed.

The number of women magistrates who have been appointed to the Bench since the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, is:—

England and Wales—Counties	941
England and Wales—Boroughs	628
Total	1,569

These figures include appointments made by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in the County of Lancaster.

Factory Inspectors.

MR. BASIL PETO (U., Barnstaple) asked the Home Secretary whether he has received any representations adverse to the present practice of inspection of factories where only men are employed by women inspectors, and whether, in view of the objection to this practice, both on the part of employers and workmen, he can arrange that this practice is discontinued in future? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Some, but not many, representations of this nature have reached me from employers, and I should like to inform my hon. Friend that in March of this year I issued directions to the Factory Department that, generally speaking, industries of a heavy nature should be inspected by men only; similarly, that certain kinds of work in connection with women's employment should be left to the women inspectors. I am always prepared to consider special cases, and if my hon. Friend will communicate with me as to any particular case, I will endeavour, if it can be done without detriment to the service, to fall in with his wishes.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME TAX.

Last Tuesday, Col. Day, the Labour Member for Central Southwark, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he would consider legislation having as its object the protection of male persons whose wives' earnings are such as to make them responsible at law for Income Tax in respect of woman's earnings. Mr. Churchill replied that he had not yet had occasion to consider the question, but would be ready to look into it. Col. Day then asked if the right hon. Gentleman was aware that only two weeks ago a man, summoned at the Willesden County Court, informed the Court that he had no knowledge at all of his wife's earnings because she would not disclose them to him. Mr. Churchill admitted that there were some anomalies in the matter, and repeated that he would be ready to look into them. There are many wives who have no knowledge of the amount of their husband's earnings, and we only wish that many thousands of women would refuse to disclose to their husbands the amount of their private income or of their earnings, so that this particular "anomaly" of Income Tax law, whereby the wife's income or earnings are lumped together with the husband's income or earnings and taxed on the joint amount, should be brought home to the authorities more sharply than it is at present. A husband is by law responsible for making the Income Tax returns for himself and his wife, unless the wife claims to make her own return. The latter course, however, is of no benefit to the wife or to the husband, so far as payment of Income Tax goes, because the Tax is still charged on the joint income of husband and wife. Members of the Women's Freedom League will remember that in pre-suffrage days Dr. Wilks refused to pay her Income Tax because, being a woman, she had no Parliamentary vote. She also refused to tell her husband what was the amount of her income, and he was imprisoned in Brixton Gaol for failure to disclose what he did not know. At the time, Mr. George Bernard Shaw expressed warm sympathy with Mr. Wilks, and declared that his own wife would not tell him the amount of her income. We do not know how the Tax authorities settled that matter, but we do know that Mr. Bernard Shaw did not go to prison. This lumping together of the incomes of husband and wife for the purposes of Income Tax is an undoubted injustice. It penalises marriage, because two friends, a brother and sister, or two people not married to each other, can live together, sharing their expenses in common, and only pay the lower tax on each of their separate incomes, whereas if they are married they have to pay a higher tax on the joint income. A woman or a man may have a tiny income, and her or his spouse may be in receipt of a large one; but the tiny one is lumped together with the bigger and taxed at the higher rate of the joint income, in many cases nearly the whole of the tiny income being swallowed up in the Tax. Chancellor after Chancellor has been urged to tax these incomes separately. The stereotyped reply of each successive Chancellor has been that this would entail too great a loss to the Revenue—£20,000,000 per year, we are told. But that amount is the measure of the injustice of our present method.

WAITING—A MAN'S JOB?

Last week women, and not men, waited at a banquet at the City of London Guildhall, when the Prince of Wales attended the Annual Dinner of the Royal Institute of British Architects. According to all accounts, the women carried through their duties with signal success, and, consequently, there has been a good deal of discussion in the general Press on this "startling" innovation and as to the suitability of women for this particular kind of work. Apparently it is agreed that waitresses are all very well for teas and light refreshment rooms; "but they should stay there," is the expressed opinion of some of their male competitors. Guests who were present described the women's service as dainty and quick. They did not force their presence on the men when not wanted; indeed, the girls made a very favourable impression, and demonstrated the art of waiting in its highest perfection. But, alas! tradition was brought up against them by men who were not at this banquet. "It is part of the tradition of our country to have men to wait at table when anyone of real importance is at luncheon or dinner," declared one man. Other men absentees declared that women would not be equal to the physical strain of serving at a big banquet at the Guildhall; wines and courses have to be carried considerable distances, and up and down stairs, and, of course, although women might look dainty and charming, they could never be so dignified in appearance as the ordinary man waiter! Well, well! We congratulate the Royal Institute of British Architects very cordially on introducing this delightful innovation to their banquets. If, as we hope, waitresses are to be paid at the same rate as the men waiters, we think they will be quite able to cope with the necessary "physical strain." Women have swum the English Channel, and the work of a waitress at a seaside boarding-house would probably compare rather unfavourably in the way of "hardness" with that of a waitress at a City Banquet. And as to dignity! Men's ideas of it are sometimes really rather funny!

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

A little while ago the Home Secretary, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, was informing meetings of women belonging to the Conservative Party that the consideration of the granting of votes to young women was a "terrible responsibility." Last Tuesday, Sir Douglas Hogg, the Attorney-General, addressing a meeting of London women at Kingsway Hall, said that, of all the experiments tried by this country since the war, the greatest and most successful had been the giving of the Parliamentary franchise to women. As he understood the pledges of the Government, they had promised that before another Election took place the franchise was to be so adjusted that men and women vote on an equal footing. That pledge, he added, threw upon women a heavy responsibility. It meant that there was going to be added to the electorate, which at present was almost too large to be properly canvassed, a number of younger women. Even Sir Douglas Hogg, apparently, has his fears about the extension of the vote to younger women. Why? The younger women of this country are surely as well-fitted to vote at elections as the younger men. The mass of boys and girls have an equal education in our schools, and both, unfortunately, are sent out into the world to earn their own living at fourteen years of age; and a very great number of them are married when they reach the age of 21. I war time, young men at 21 years of age are considered indispensable for fighting their country's battles, and young women of similar age are considered quite as indispensable for carrying on their own and the men's work at home. But we are glad to see that Ministers are beginning to realise that the subject of Equal Franchise has to be dealt with; and we refer our readers to our "In Parliament" page for a number of questions on Equal Franchise and to the Prime Minister's non-committal reply.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR, 1926.

ROUND THE STALLS.

On Tuesday and Wednesday of last week we held our Annual Green, White and Gold Fair, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. The Women's Freedom League provided 18 of the prettily decorated stalls which occupied the centre and sides of the Hall, whilst 14 others were furnished by outside Societies and individuals. The Hall itself was gay with the flags and banners of our own and kindred women's organisations.

OPENING CEREMONIES.

On Tuesday, the Fair was opened by Professor Winifred Cullis, O.B.E., D.Sc. Dr. Knight, who presided, referred to our Equal Franchise Campaign, which had been formally inaugurated this autumn, and which would be continued all through 1927 if necessary. Women must be behind the Government, she said, if an Equal Suffrage Bill was to be forthcoming by next June, which everyone agreed was the latest date that could be permitted if women were to vote on equal terms with men at the next Parliamentary Election.

Professor Cullis paid a very cordial tribute to Dr. Knight, our Treasurer, to the title of our League, to everyone connected with it, and to the straightforward way with which we went for those objects which really mattered! The present Suffrage position was intolerable, and it was heartbreaking that women still had to spend their energies in getting such a palpable injustice righted, when so many other social evils were crying out to be remedied. One of these, without doubt, was the present parlous position of the married woman with regard to public paid work, as evidenced by the recent dismissal of Dr. Turnadge from the Twickenham County School for Girls, on the pretext that because she had a son of eight months old she should not be engrossed in outside duties. Such dismissals, said Professor Cullis, were the most gross interference with the freedom of the individual, interference which was never applied in the case of charwomen or similar married women doing poorly paid work. What would men say, asked Dr. Cullis, if a League was started to prevent married women from cleaning out offices and shops?

Votes of thanks to both Chairman and speaker were then proposed by Mrs. Mustard, and seconded by Mrs. Dexter.

On Wednesday, Miss Munro took the Chair and exhorted all present to do their utmost to make the "Fair" a financial success. Our League existed for the Freedom of Women, and that very week this freedom had been specially assailed in two instances: (1) the dismissal of Dr. Turnadge, and (2) the progress in the House of Lords of the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Bill, which excludes women from the painting trade when lead is used.

The Lady Amherst, of Hackney, in opening the Fair, said there had been a good many criticisms in the Press about the Modern Girl, and she objected to the Modern Girl for three reasons: (1) The Modern Girl dressed far better than she herself did, and spent much less. (2) The Modern Girl was so extravagant! She bought a little plain hat, with no trimming at all, so that when she had finished with it there were no flowing plumes and herbaceous borders to be taken off and stuffed into drawers for future use, as in pre-war days. (3) The Modern Girl never came to her for advice, and Lady Amherst would love to advise her, but if ever by chance she ventured to offer advice, the Modern Girl looked at her—well, as though she had heard it all before. Very likely she had read Aristotle—Lady Amherst had not—and so knew everything beforehand.

Lady Amherst urged all present to help all the stallholders by buying everything they could to help the workers, who wanted funds to help forward the freedom of women.

Miss F. A. Underwood and Miss Vibert proposed and seconded the votes of thanks to Opener and Chairman.

The Hampstead Stalls showed some wonderful Cotillion Dolls straight from Paris and Le Touquet, dainty boxes of handkerchiefs tied with coloured ribbon, pretty silk tea-cosies, and, amongst some really valuable "antiques," a handsome piece of early Victorian Berlin woolwork, and a Sheffield Plate snuffers and tray. The Mid-London Stall, devoted almost entirely to stationery, proved extremely popular. Paper d'oyles and tablecloths, fancy paper gift decorations for Christmas trees, brightly-hued penholders, coloured sealing-wax of various shapes and sizes, children's paper tablecloths (quaintly illustrated), and artificial holly and mistletoe, all found a ready sale. Montgomery Boroughs had three stalls, two of them fairly groaning with cakes, mincemeat, butter, apples, Christmas cake and Christmas puddings, and the third gay with children's woollies, Brittany pottery, raffia-work, embroidered tray cloths, and crêpe-de-Chine scarves all the colours of the rainbow. The ever useful Portsmouth Household Stall was brilliant with shining aluminium ware, flanked on either side by stacks of tea-cloths, bath mats, and similar domestic necessities. The South-Eastern "Pound" Stall was plentifully provided with pounds of everything a thoughtful housekeeper would need—cakes, jam, sugar, tea, groceries, candles, sweets, puddings, etc., and decorated with gay chrysanthemums, which quickly found purchasers. The China Stall had a splendid assortment of Deal pottery in rich blues and greens, and a quantity of shining cut-glass, rose bowls, cruets, fruit dishes, etc. The Scottish Stall was resplendent with all manner of knitted goods, children's suits, sweaters, jumpers, and startling golliwogs. The Literature Stall was specially attractive with its children's coloured annuals, serious books, novels, diaries, etc. The Apron and Overall Stall showed a splendid assortment of children's and adults' coloured aprons and overalls, work-bags, children's frocks, lavender bags, cushion covers, and dressing jackets. The ever popular Shilling Stall quickly sold out of its varied assortment of bric-a-brac, curiosities, and Continental wares. The Sweet Stall provided a tempting selection of Fuller's sweets, chocolates, and dainty bags of delicacies. The Toy Stall, one of the most attractive in the Fair, fairly bristled with the most charming baby dolls, "Dismal Desmonds" (the latest in soft toys) in various sizes, jungle toys, boxes of games, rubber "blow-outs," balls, and mascots. The White Stall, as usual, afforded an opportunity to display Mrs. Holmes' exquisite hand-made and embroidered garments, as well as hand-painted moccasin bedroom slippers and silk-covered dress hangers. Mrs. Lloyd's General Stall possessed, amongst other articles of vertu, an imposing ostrich feather fan, a handsome silk and velvet handkerchief box, and an exquisitely worked bead bag, at least half a century old. The Nine Elms Settlement Stall shone golden with bananas, and showed other interesting articles, including a lovely little silk frock, elaborately honeycombed, some rare old Irish lace, and pots of jam and groceries. THE VOTE Stall, as last year, a veritable ladies' boudoir, commanded a steady sale in soaps, face creams and powders, shampoo powders, sponges, shaving sticks, and other toilet necessities.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Our cordial thanks are due to the talented artistes who helped so materially to make this year's Fair a success. Miss Mollie Dutchman and her clever bevy of helpers arranged an excellent Musical and Dramatic Entertainment on each day of the Fair, together with songs, monologues, and piano selections. Piano solos, songs, violin solos, whistling solos, recitations, etc., were also contributed by Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Mollie Seymour, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Olive Harvey James, Miss Lilian Foulis, Miss Price, and Miss M. Prelooker. On Tuesday, the Tawasita Camp Fire girls from Hampstead gave a charming display of Folk

Dances and Ceremonial Rites. The Character Readings by Mrs. Simons and Miss Wall, and Miss King's Numerology were warmly patronised and appreciated. The corner for Competitions and Games was splendidly arranged by Mrs. Seymour-Pritchard, who was assisted by Mrs. Blake and Miss Ripley.

OUR BEST THANKS.

The Women's Freedom League gives its most cordial thanks to all who helped towards last week's success. First and foremost to Miss E. Berry, our ever efficient and untiring "Fair" Secretary, and also to the "Fair" Sub-Committee for its faithful attendance and work throughout the year.

Thanks are also due to the Stall-holders:—

Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, and Miss Vibert (Hampstead Branch); Mrs. Osler, Miss Charles, Mrs. Legge, Miss Spackman, and Miss Webb (Mid-London Branch); Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. Elias, Mrs. Bengel, the Misses Codd, Miss Peggy Lewis, Mrs. Richard Jones, Mrs. Gareth, Mrs. Gladys Budden, and Mrs. Dixon (Montgomery Boroughs Branch); Mrs. and Miss Poole and Mrs. Brading (Portsmouth Branch); Miss White, Mrs. Finch, and Mrs. Palmer (South-Eastern Branches); Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Lindus, Miss B. Perry, Miss Schlund, and Miss Daisy Solomon (China Stall); Mrs. Mustard, Miss Munro, Miss Mustard, Mrs. Rose, and Miss Sidley (Knitted Goods); Mrs. Pierotti and Miss Trotter (Literature Stall); Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Mrs. and Miss Turrii, Miss Brewer, Miss Charles, Miss Higby, Miss Spellman, and Miss Stone (Overalls and Aprons); Mrs. Delbanco and Mrs. Wilss (Shilling Stall, supported by the Minerva Club Branch); Miss Hoare and Miss Ursula Scott (Sweets); Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Shore, and Mrs. Keelan (Toy Stall and Bran Tub); Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. M. M. Abbott, Mrs. Boxall, and Mrs. Dexter (White Stall); Mrs. Lloyd (General Stall); Mrs. Flowers, Miss Barton, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Northcroft, and Miss Burgoine (Vote Stall); Miss Hunt (Ticket Selling); Mr. Bacon (doors); the Women's Auxiliary Service, for policing the Hall; Miss Reeves, and the staff and members of the Minerva Club, assisted by Mrs. Hemscomb, Miss Adams, Miss Glasgow, Mrs. Reeves, the Misses Skinner, Mrs. Hornibrook and her daughter, Mrs. Burbage, Miss Sadd Brown, Miss Phillips, Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Bell, Miss Russell, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Keelan, Miss Hilda James, and Mrs. Scott, who so kindly undertook the teas and refreshments; and all who sent and bought the contents of the Stalls.

WOMEN AND BOROUGH COUNCILS.

Since the issue of previous lists in THE VOTE, we have received the following names of women on Borough Councils, and list of Councils without women members. A star (*) indicates that the women were elected last month:—

ENGLAND.

GLOUCESTER.—Mrs. J. M. Siveter and *Mrs. M. L. Edwards.

TAUNTON.—Mrs. S. J. Barnicott.

WEST HAM.—Alderman Edith Sophia Kerrison, J.P., Mrs. Esther Bock, *Mrs. Elizabeth Gregory, Mrs. Daisy Parsons, and *Mrs. Flora Price.

SCOTLAND.

HADDINGTON.—Mrs. J. P. Murray and *Miss H. B. Paterson.

TAIN.—Miss Johanna Margaret Ross.

NO WOMEN COUNCILLORS.

ENGLAND.—Bridgnorth, Pontefract.

SCOTLAND.—Cromarty, Nairn, Paisley.

ment, and dealt with the prohibition of women's overtime (and not men's), and the Chairman would allow no discussion against the differentiation of treatment as between men and women workers, our delegates were very restricted in their powers of voting. They, however, voted against the prohibition of overtime for women.

RESTRICTIONS ON WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT.

Last Friday the Women's Freedom League was represented at a Conference of Women's Organisations, convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, to consider "What is the Real Protection of the Woman Worker?" Our delegates voted for the following Resolutions, which were passed by large majorities:—

General Principles.

This Conference, while believing that protection should be afforded to workers, declares that restrictions imposed on the work of women, not at the same time applicable to that of men, result in their being treated as permanent non-adults, and lowers their status as workers. This Conference believes that the only policy which both permits of the fullest development of the welfare of all workers and safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work, and not upon the sex of the worker.

Factories Bill.

This Conference calls upon the Government to amend the Factories Bill by incorporating in it the hours proposals of the Washington Hours Convention, thereby securing for all adult workers, male and female, the same conditions of employment as regards hours of labour, including nightwork, overtime, and holidays, noting that the nightwork provisions therein contained may not be of practical effect in the case of women till after 1930; and to apply those provisions of the Bill concerning general safety (including protection from machinery and the institution of fire drill), lead processes carried on in places other than factories, and special provisions and regulations for health, safety, and welfare to all workers irrespective of sex.

Lead Paint (Protection Against Poisoning) Bill.

This Conference calls attention to the fact that lead poisoning affects disastrously both sexes, and may cause abortion or stillbirth whether the male or female parent be the poisoned person. Since Clause II. of the Lead Paint (Protection Against Poisoning) Bill has the effect of closing the painting trade to women under the guise of protecting them, while the other clauses of the Bill protect the male worker by regulating the industry, this Conference calls upon the Government to amend Clause II. of the Bill when it returns to the House of Commons in so far as it applies to adult women, so that the precautionary regulations of the Bill shall apply irrespective of sex.

International Labour Organisation.

(1) This Conference notes with satisfaction that the Nine General Principles set out in Section 2 of Part 13 of the Treaty of Versailles, as those upon which International Legislation should be based, give recognition to the occupational and not to the sex method for workers' protection, and the Conference urges upon men and women interested in the welfare of the workers to give wide publicity to this Section 2, and to bring pressure upon the International Labour Organisation to base its future legislative proposals upon it.

(2) This Conference deplores the fact that at its first meeting in Washington, in 1919, the International Labour Organisation adopted a Convention prohibiting nightwork for adults only in the case of women, and that every Convention and Recommendation dealing specifically with the work of the adult woman wage-earner adopted by the International Labour Organisation has taken the form of restricting, on the grounds of sex, the work of adult women, and therefore denying their liberty and responsibility.

The following afternoon the Women's Freedom League was represented at a Conference on Factories (No. 2) Bill, convened by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, who had invited a few women's organisations to send delegates. As the Resolutions submitted treated women as in the same category as Young Persons in regard to employ-

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, December 6th, at 3.0 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, to be followed at 3.30 p.m. by A Little Christmas Sale of presents, books, and useful goods, etc. All members and friends specially invited—Dainty teas!

PROVINCES.

Monday, December 6th, at 3.30 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Whist Drive at the Hempsted Street Hall.

1927.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Wednesday, January, 5th, at 4-6 p.m.

Haslings Branch. New Year's Party at 1, St. Paul's Place.

SCOTLAND.

Monday, December 13th, at 7 p.m.

Edinburgh Branch. Whist Drive in the Philosophic Institute, 4, Queen's Street. Tickets 2/- each, from Miss Manclark, 71, Comiston Drive; or from the Organiser, at The Quest, Liberton.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, December 4th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Symposium: Five-Minute Speeches on "What I would do if I could."

Monday, December 6th, at 8 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Public Meeting, organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, at Swedish Hall, Harcourt Street, St. Marylebone.

Monday, December 6th, at 8 p.m.

Founding Est. Protection Association. Public Meeting at Kingsway Hall, to protest against the threatened transfer of Covent Garden Market to the Foundling Hospital site.

Thursday, December 9th, at 3 p.m.

Parents' National Education Union. Drawing Room Meeting at 34, Tite Street, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, S.W. (by kind permission of M. S. Adrian C. F. H. Pe). Speaker: Paymaster-Commander H. B. Bowring, R.A. (Director of the Junior Red Cross). Subject: "Youth and Service—The Junior Red Cross as a Factor in Education." Chair: Mrs. Evan Campbell.

Saturday, December 11th, at 2.30 p.m.

No More War Movement. Great International Fair at the Guildhouse, Ecclestone Square. To be opened at 2.30 p.m. by Miss Lind-af-Hageoy. Admission 1/-.

BRANCH NOTE.

DEAL AND WALMER.

A meeting of members and friends was held at 4, Victoria Road, Deal, on Saturday, November 27th. We had the privilege of having Miss Tooke, J.P., with us as speaker, and it was a great disappointment that there were so few present. Over 60 personal invitations had been sent, and the meeting had been well advertised in the local paper, but for some unknown reason the attendance at it was deplorably small. The few present fully appreciated all Miss Tooke had to tell of the aims and objects of our League besides the Equal Suffrage question. The Hon. Secretary had specially requested her to explain that the Suffrage was not the only question upon which we centred our interest and activities. This she very ably did, taking just a few of the other important wrongs and injustices which so many women of England are apparently quite willing to continue enduring with an apathy which is appalling, leaving the enthusiastic and not-to-be-beaten workers to smooth the rough roads down which so many of their more unfortunate sisters have to go. The Hon. Secretary feels that in Deal and Walmer she is up against a veritable brick wall of prejudice and Party spirit; but she does not give up hope that some day a battering-ram will be found strong enough to break it down, and thus enable the wide vision beyond to be clearly seen by every man and woman in the neighbourhood. Next time we have the pleasure of welcoming Miss Tooke, or any other able enthusiast of the League, we hope a large hole will have been made in the wall, and a crowded room be the result.

HASTINGS. Mrs. Darent Harrison is giving a New Year's Party at 1, St. Paul's Place, St. Leonards, on Wednesday, January 5th, at 4 p.m. Miss White would be very glad to have names of those willing to help in a musical programme.

S.E. BRANCHES STALL.

Many thanks to all those members who so kindly contributed goods to this Stall at the Fair.

ASHFORD.

A Whist Drive will be held at the Hempsted Street Hall on Monday, December 6th, at 3.30.

GLASGOW.

There was a Members' Meeting in Glasgow on November 30th, at which to make arrangements for a Cake and Candy Sale, to take place about a week before Christmas.

EDINBURGH.

On Monday, December 13th, there will be a Whist Drive in the Philosophic Institute, 4, Queen's Street, commencing at 7 p.m. Tickets, 2s. each, can be obtained from Miss Manclark, 71, Comiston Drive; or from the Organiser, at The Quest, Liberton. Profits are to go to the funds of the Edinburgh Branch of the League. (Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

News of our President.

Letters have been received from Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, who reached Bombay, after a thoroughly delightful voyage, on November 5th. They were going straight to Madras, where they would meet Mr. and Mrs. Cousins and travel with them into the Native State of Mysore. Afterwards they were going to Calcutta, where they would meet Bose (the scientist), Lord Lytton, and Tagore (the poet). They will also visit the sacred City of Benares, Delhi, Amritsar, Lahore, and Ahmedabad, the home of Gandhi, before returning to Bombay. Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence will sail in the "Kaisar-i-Hind" on January 15. They had intended to come straight home, but have now decided to accept an invitation to visit one of the Egyptian Ministers at his home at Alexandria on their way back, so that they will not reach England until the first week in February. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence sends her love and greetings to all friends. Will they please note that we have arranged a Reception to our President at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., Friday evening, February 11th, at 8.15 p.m., to be preceded by an informal dinner at 7.30 p.m.?

Quite Non-Committal.

The Derby Daily Express, in a paragraph on "Women Police," states that, interviewed by a representative, the Chief Constable (Capt. H. Rawlings) qualified in some measure a statement made at a meeting in support of women police for Derby. The statement made by a woman speaker was that he was "all for" the movement. Capt. Rawlings said: "It is a matter for the Watch Committee. The question is, 'Who is going to pay?' The Watch Committee will have to decide what expensive luxuries they feel justified in providing. It is not absolutely fair to me to say definitely that I am in favour of women police. I am not going to say that I am against them any more than I am in favour of them. The important point is whether there is any actual need for them in Derby. On that I am not going to say anything, and I have not yet expressed an opinion. I am non-committal, but I repeat, the matter is one for decision by the Watch Committee."

More Parliamentary Voters.

It is stated that when the complete returns of Parliamentary voters are available, they will show an increase of about 350,000 women voters, so that on next year's register there will be about 10,000,000 women voters as compared with about 13,000,000 male voters. The Conservative Central Offices are arranging for Correspondence Classes on the Art and Science of Politics, the tuition to be open to both sexes.

Wages for Young Women.

Last week, 30 young women struck work in an East London firm because their employers wanted to reduce the price from 4½d. to 4d. for machining a pair of trousers. The employers stated that the trousers were being made for South Africa, and that they had to compete with "mixed labour" in that country, for which only 2½d. an hour was paid. On behalf of the girls it was stated that one girl worked nine hours for 3s. 7d.; another (a specially fast worker) did 8½ hours for 5s. 4d., and a third nine hours for 3s.

Equal Rights.

Punch says: "A lady M.P. is demanding equal rights for men and women. All men will support her in her gallant fight for their interests."

WOMEN MAGISTRATES IN COUNCIL.

A Conference of women magistrates holding office within a fifty-mile radius of Deal was held on 26th November, the Chair being taken by Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P. for the Borough of Deal.

Miss J. M. Tooke, of the Council of Women Magistrates for Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham, gave a short address, in the course of which she touched on the question of Children's Courts, Inspection of Police Court cells by women magistrates, the Carlisle System of Licensing, and kindred topics.

In dealing with the Council's activities at Newcastle, the speaker made reference to lectures given by legal experts on various points of law. They had also been addressed by Commandant Allen, of the Women Police.

The meeting concluded by passing an enthusiastic resolution forming the basis of a local Women Magistrates' Council, Canterbury being chosen as the centre.

LOST AT THE FAIR.

A pair of Eye-glasses. Apply to Mrs. E. M. Moore, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, December 5th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Sir George Newman, K.C.B., M.D. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "The Fellowship of all Humanity."

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